

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

Box 3

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

OHIO STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY,

JUNE 13th, 1860,

BY

L. FIRESTONE, M.D.,

PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY.



COLUMBUS:

PRINTED BY FOLLETT, FOSTER AND COMPANY.

1860.

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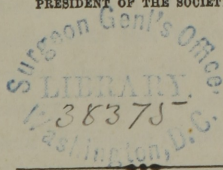
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ADDRESS.

MEMBERS OF THE OHIO STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY :

Another Autumn, with its "sear and yellow leaf," has passed — another Winter gone — another Spring, with its singing birds and rippling brooks, has come — another year has been buried in the great ocean of Time — another meeting of the Ohio State Medical Society is here, and its members have left their missions of mercy and usefulness at home, to spend a short time in recounting the deeds of the past, and prepare for greater exertions in the future. It is meet to do so. It is proper to "sit down and reason together." It is the part of wisdom to "prove all things and hold fast to that which is good." The great enemy of our race is on the alert, and eager to fatten the tomb; hence the necessity for us to be fully prepared to ward off his fatal thrusts, and be ready to defend against his insidious attacks. As we advance in years, we become more fully convinced of our weakness to cure the many ills of life. It was the saying of the eccentric Radcliffe, "When I was young I had twenty remedies for every disease; now I am old, and I find twenty diseases without a single remedy." Many of us have been long enough in active practice to realize that this remark has some foundation in truth. A skilful general changes the position of his army, when in battle, to secure a victory. Death is ever varying *his* means of attack. When one form of disease is understood and vanquished by the profession, another, still more formidable, takes its place. We read in heathen mythology, that one of the labors of Hercules was to destroy the Lernaean monster. He had a hundred heads, and as fast as one was cut off two appeared in its place.

"Art thou proportioned to the Hydra's length,
Who by his wounds received augmented strength?
He raised a hundred hissing heads in air;
When one I lopped, up sprung a dreadful pair."

Diseases, a century ago considered incurable, are not at this day regarded with much solicitude by medical men. In their places others of more import have appeared, making it necessary for us to meet together and strengthen ourselves by the accumulation of facts for the great work in which we have engaged. Let us deliberate with a becoming spirit, adopt as our motto *Excelsior, Excelsior*, and may it be said of us as of the father of medicine :

“Heal all nations,
And defraud the tomb.”

Let the world rage on the different questions of the day ; let politicians vie with each other for the spoils of office ; let Seward and Douglas, Lincoln and Bell, take care of the Union and doctor the Constitution ; but let it be our mission to guard well against the invasions of disease, and let it be our proudest ambition, if we cannot save the suffering victim, to at least smooth the pillow of death. This Society has done much good. Before its organization we knew but few of our professional brethren. The first object of the organization was the association of the profession for the purpose of mutual recognition and fellowship, and kindred to this, the maintenance of union, harmony and good government among its members ; thereby promoting the character, interests, honor and usefulness of the profession, as well as the advancement and cultivation of medical science and literature. When this Society was organized, there were but twenty-five members. Now nearly five hundred names are enrolled, most of whom meet once a year in friendly greetings. The advantages of organizations are well understood, and practiced by farmers, mechanics and laborers. Mechanics' institutes receive liberal attention and rich bequests. Agricultural societies are formed in nearly every county, auxiliary to the State Agricultural Society. The Legislature has endowed them with authority and furnished funds. The good effects are plainly to be seen in the improvement of stock and the diffusion of intelligence among the masses. Agriculture, by means of organizations, is becoming a science, and old superstitions are passing away. When a foreign foe invades our shores ; when the stirring drum of the enemy is heard ; when their

war cry salutes our ears ; we arouse to action ; in a word, we organize. In all these things we become fully convinced that in "union there is strength." The object of our union is not merely for friendly greetings, but for improvement in the healing art. A celebrated divine, upon a certain occasion, was asked how it happened they knew so much. He answered, "We tell each other." Gentlemen, let *us* tell each other. "Truth should be our polar star, benevolence to man our compass, and a knowledge of the human frame, in health and disease, our chart." With these in our possession, and with friendly feelings one to the other, we cannot fail. The calling of the physician is one of responsibility. He is responsible to himself, inasmuch as he is a partner in the great human family. The world is but a partnership. We are all partners in business. The great capitalist in the east is but a partner with the foreigner who lands upon our shores, and digs our lands and builds our railroads. The merchant is but a partner with the beggar in rags. The physician is a partner with them all. We all have mutual privileges and mutual wants. All were created by the same Almighty hand, and were destined to perform each a part upon the stage of human life. We should be prepared when the curtain rises to play well life's drama ; to perform with honor to ourselves, and benefit to the world. If the physician is not responsible to himself, neither is he to his God. But the physician is not only responsible to himself, but to the sick. From the time that man by his disobedience partook of

" The fruit

Of that forbidden tree, whose mortal taste

Brought death into the world, and all our woe,"

to the present, pain and disease have afflicted the human family. Disease is incident to mankind. We drink it from the clear fountain as it gushes from the rock ; we inhale it from the zephyr as it fans our brow ; and we breathe it from the fragrance of the blushing rose. This, if permitted to riot unchecked, will result in dissolution ; if permitted to go on, will blanch the cheek of the lovely maid ; nip as an early frost the bud of infancy ; prostrate the king upon his eider-down, as well as the beggar upon his pallet of straw. This curse the

physician has assumed to stay ; he has assumed to drive away fever, "as he dances with his fiery feet upon an aching brow ;" and has assumed to cool the parched tongue. He has assumed, in a word, to cure disease, not unconditionally, but he has assumed to do all that science and skill can do. The fluttering pulse at the wrist, and the tremulous breath, look to him as the controller of a destiny — a minister of mercy. The living and well anxiously watch him ; the sick look to him in confidence, feeling, believing and hoping that he can apply the healing balm. Again, he is responsible to the community in health. It is an old proverb that "an ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure." Prevention as well as cure is wanted ; prophylactics as well as therapeutics. The physician should be on guard to observe the approach and repel the attacks of the foe. It is a fact well known, that the enemy will attack where he meets with the least resistance from within. If one part of the system is weaker than another, there is where the attack will be made. He will there riot until the fortress is taken, and then will attack others in succession until he reigns supreme, and, like a fiend, laughs at the prostration of his victim. The weaker parts must be well guarded, and the enemy timely routed. But the attack is not only made where there is the least resistance from within, but where there is the least resistance from without. If the health of community is guarded at places by arrogant pretenders, boasting skill (and possessing none) ; by those who have read through an entire course in one year, and are doctors by intuition ; by those who dabble with all systems and understand none ; by those who prescribe patent nostrums and encourage the humbugs of the day ; by those who are superstitious, and believe in signs and wonders ; by those who divide their time between medicine, divinity and law ; by money-makers engaged in banking or working on their farms, or by old fogies who sleep on their posts ; it is at such places the attack will be made. How necessary that all should be well qualified, and ever on the watch-tower, to sound the alarm when the enemy approaches ! Great are the duties we have assumed, and mighty the responsibilities we have voluntarily taken upon ourselves. The riches in the fortress we assume to guard, are the treasures embodied in the moral, intellectual and physical inter

ests of the world. Our Society has done much to strengthen the hands of each other. It has engendered a laudable ambition among its members. As "iron sharpens iron," so have our frequent meetings and our varied discussions sharpened the intellect. Several prize essays have been written, which have done honor to the authors, and been of great benefit to the medical world. Committees have made able reports upon the different subjects to which they were appointed. These reports have been spread upon the pages of our transactions, read and reflected upon by members, as well as many outside of our organization. These reports, doubtless, have been the means of saving many lives, and I trust will be the means of saving many more. Ovariectomy has received an amount of attention in this State that it would not have done had it not been for the labors of this Society. It has been demonstrated that opposition to the operation, on account of its supposed fatality, is ill-founded — the percentage of cures being equal, if not superior, to most of the capital operations. To object to the operation now, would smack strongly of "old fogysm." We have had the subject ably presented by our committees, and such confidence engendered, that we read of successful operations in almost every medical journal. Other subjects of great importance have been reported on by our committees, and original papers read by members, until we have accumulated an array of facts of credit to the Society, and created a growing healthful interest in the profession. We perhaps have not done our whole duty, but surely we have done it in part. While our advancement has not been so great as might be wished, yet I can congratulate you in being able to say our advancement has been consistent with the progress of the age. True progress has always been gradual. Learning never sprang into the world at once. It never came with the rapidity of lightning, dazzling with its brilliancy and electrifying with its thunder. Each age, each people, each organization, and each society have added to the general stock. The widow has given her mite, the weak his feebleness, and the giant his strength. Cannot it be said of us, as a Society, that we have contributed a liberal share. We may have had our bickerings, our trials, our quarrels, and our dissensions; we may at times have committed errors; we may occasionally have

wandered from the true path ; but it must at the same time be observed that truth, in all its beauty, magnificence and splendor, never yet beamed on earth. Science is not perfect. Let us, by our future conduct, correct whatever errors may have been committed in the past, add our mite to the stock of medical knowledge, and make our loved profession as perfect as possible. By doing this, we can emulate the true physician who is patient in study, toil and investigation ; who makes himself familiar with the various departments of his profession ; whose progress is lighted by the lamp of ages ; and “ who walks in the paths of the great benefactors and philanthropists of the world.” Gentlemen, if we do this, great will be our reward. It will not be a puff in some newspaper, or the fulsome adulation of the silly crowd, but it will be a greater reward—the consciousness of having done our duty. If we do this in a proper spirit, our profession will become so perfect in time that we can look in confidence to the action of our remedial agents. We can hope, yes, we can know, that the rose will return to the cheek, fire to the eye, and health re-invigorate the whole frame. Our reward will be the pleasure of seeing our patients leap from their beds of sickness, in new physical strength, to call us blessed. These will cheer our midnight vigils, our hours of toil, and the cold asperities of life.

Gentlemen, a great work is yet to be done, and if our Society fulfils its mission, a great labor is before us. We have a work outside of our organization, if we wish to advance. It is to be feared that wealth is the great object and aim of some physicians. All their labors, struggles and ambition are for its accumulation. When this becomes a leading object—when it covers up and conceals every thing else among the members of the profession, then the standard of professional eminence proportionably sinks. I do not wish to be understood to say that a physician should labor, and expose himself to rain, sleet and storm, without a reward ; for I believe the “ laborer is worthy of his hire,” and if any man should be well paid for his services it is the physician ; but I do mean to say that wealth—the accumulation of property—should not be his sole, his highest ambition. He should have a better, a holier object in view. He should endeavor to elevate the honor and usefulness of his professional brethren.

ren; and if he is so fortunate as to come into possession of some of the gold that glitters, he should at the same time have an approving conscience of having done his whole duty to the afflicted, as well as to strengthen the hands of his younger and weaker professional brethren. Great desire of wealth begets parsimony, and hence but little money is expended for their own or others' advancement. I am sorry to say, yet it is nevertheless true, that I am acquainted with physicians in this State, and members of this Society in good circumstances, owning houses and lands, who do not and have not taken a medical journal for years. Whether there are any such present I cannot say. If there are, I pity them. Such physicians solace themselves with the reflection that they have become rich, and need pay no further attention to the profession, other than to attend to those of the afflicted *who are able to pay*, and receive their reward for services I fear but poorly rendered. Talk to them about new remedies, and you are told the good old paths are the best; that what was known three hundred years ago, is known now; and that nothing is known now that was not known then; that all new discoveries are humbugs. They come under the class — "It is hard to teach an old dog new tricks." Go to their libraries, and you find there has been no advancement. Their latest work on Surgery is Desault; on Practice, Armstrong and Thomas; *Materia Medica*, Cullen; Midwifery, Burns or Denman, with perhaps a copy of Aristotle for private reference. If the profession had been left in such hands; if it had been confided to physicians who make wealth their great object in life, what would it be to-day? Where would be the new discoveries in Physiology and Pathology? Where the microscope, revealing to us the nature of disease? Where the new remedies that have saved thousands from their graves; and where the Anæsthetics, robbing surgical operations of all their terrors? Instead of these we would still be talking of the "open mouths of the absorbents," of "good humors" and "bad humors," "Cato's reduction of luxations by incantations," "Montaigne's epigrams," "arteries full of air" instead of blood, of "six canals up" and "six down," of "eight transverse" and "fifteen oblique," through which the blood was said to run, and we would be equally led captive with

"Des Cartes" and Von Helmont," with the jargons of the Asclepiades, and the spirits of which ancient medicine was full. It is necessary for the agriculturalist to have the implements of husbandry, the chemist his laboratory, and the mechanic his tools. The physician, to be "up with the times," must have his library filled, not with old works merely, but with late ones, and take some well-conducted medical journals. Point me to the physician who, from parsimony, does not and will not take them, and I will point to one "behind the times" — an "*old foggy*." If the profession of medicine is worth pursuing at all, it is worth pursuing well. If we assume to cure disease, we should avail ourselves of all the lights and improvements of scientific men, even if attended with some expense. In a word, wealth should not swallow up the motive to do the greatest good to the afflicted, and elevate the standard of the profession of our choice.

But again, great desire of wealth leads our medical men into other pursuits. Some buy farms, some are engaged in banking, some in rail-roading, and some turn speculators. The wants of the afflicted, the distresses of the diseased, the duties and responsibilities of the physician, require not a part, but the whole of his time. He cannot discharge his duties without being assiduous and attentive, and without being unceasingly and individually engaged in his profession. He cannot divide his time. No objections should be urged against a physician becoming a farmer, but there is a serious objection to his becoming farmer and doctor. He should not, he cannot consistently, divide his time between the two pursuits. By so doing, he is either a miserable doctor or a miserable farmer. I apprehend, in a great majority of instances, he is both. The same objection exists against those who practice medicine and preach the gospel. I should be loath to trust either my body or my soul in their keeping.

Another duty of the Society is the elevation of the standard of medical education. This may properly be considered under two heads: A proper education before entering the office of the preceptor, and an education proper for the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Upon the subject of preliminary education of young men before entering upon the study of medicine, much has been written, yet but little practical good has been accomplished. That there is a de-

fect, all will admit. The community judge in some degree of the professional qualifications of the physician from his knowledge of general subjects. If they find him ignorant of every thing outside, they naturally conclude he is equally ignorant of that which is inside of the profession. If they discover that he is a novice in Grammar, Philosophy, History and Chemistry, they at once conclude that he knows but little of Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology and Therapeutics. By what other evidence can they determine? They know nothing of medicine proper, yet they do know that a correct knowledge of medicine includes a knowledge of most of the collateral sciences. The time has passed when by mere display a man can palm himself off as an intelligent physician. The time has passed when a mere knowledge of calomel and jalap will serve as a passport to the confidence of the public. This Society numbers nearly five hundred members, scattered over this great State. If proper exertions are used, with our present strength, the evil in question can be corrected. It can be done by adopting a standard of preliminary education, and then by admitting no young man as a student of medicine who does not come up to that standard. Some years since the difficulty was to adopt a standard, but it is not the case now. The National Medical Convention, which met in New York in 1846, appointed a committee on medical education, to report to that body. Before doing so, they made inquiries of thirty-six medical schools, as well as several distinguished practitioners in different parts of the Union. From the answers received, it appeared there was no uniform standard of preparatory education required of students. They also found great diversity of opinion as to the proper qualifications, varying from a common school education to the highest collegiate attainments. The committee thought there could be no hope of a useful result by making the standard higher than the wants of the country, wisely concluding, in order to be successful, it was better to make it too low than too high; and hence recommended a good English education; a knowledge of Natural Philosophy and the elementary mathematical sciences, including Geometry and Algebra, and such acquaintance with the Latin and Greek as to enable the student to appreciate the technical language of medicine, and read and write

prescriptions. This report was adopted by the convention which met in Philadelphia in 1847. The standard has been fixed by the American Medical Association, and it only remains for us to adopt it, or some other equally good, and then discharge our duty in the premises.

This subject has received some action from the Society already, but nothing definite has been done. Let us renew the work at once. In order to carry out the reform, examiners should be appointed in each county, or in each congressional district, to examine students before entering an office to study medicine. Do this, and then let us pledge ourselves to each other that we will not receive under our instruction, as a student of medicine, any young man who has not in his possession a certificate from this board of examiners; and let us recommend to our professional brethren throughout the State to adopt a similar rule of action. But one thing more is requisite to complete this needed reform. It is for the medical colleges of the State to refuse to matriculate any student who has not in his possession this certificate, backed with one from his preceptor, that he has pursued a regular course of professional studies. From my acquaintance with the members of the different medical faculties in Ohio, their desire to elevate the standard of the profession, their ambition to send out men well qualified to discharge their duties as physicians, I feel confident they will cheerfully carry out the recommendation of the Society, and adopt it as a rule of action.

I have but little to say about medical lectures on the qualifications necessary for the degree of Doctor of Medicine. It is a subject about which much has been said, and perhaps a great deal said of but little profit. There are difficulties surrounding medical colleges, to interfere with well-concerted plans and the honest intentions of the professors, that we "outsiders" know but little about. The great fault, in my opinion, is not in the teaching, but in the shortness of the term. Our young men are taught in our medical colleges with lightning speed. An amount of matter is presented each day requiring two or three days to properly consider. The student, from the time he enters college, has to sit six or seven hours each day, and listen to as many professors deliver learned lectures upon the several depart-

ments taught. When night comes he is weary and worn, and then must visit the dissecting room and stay two or three hours in its filthy inclosure studying practical anatomy. From the amount of matter presented he becomes confused and bewildered. Much has been taught him, but he knows but little more at the end of the term than when he entered college. At night his pillow supports an aching head, his bed has a restless occupant. He is disheartened, discouraged, and leaves college either with his health seriously impaired, or but little better prepared to discharge the duties of a physician than he was when he left the office of his preceptor. This evil can be corrected by lengthening the term of lectures without increasing the matter taught, and at the same time dividing the course of study. Make the term six months. Let the first three months be devoted to Anatomy, Physiology, Materia Medica and Therapeutics; the last three to Pathology, Theory and Practice, Midwifery and Surgery. This plan, I think, would be an improvement hailed with delight by the student, and one that would redound with much good to the profession. As the system now is, too many subjects of study are crowded upon the mind at once, and the consequence is, none are understood. It should also be borne in mind, that there are great differences in the capacity of young men; some will hear lectures read, and understand four departments of medicine better and with more ease than others will two. As now managed no distinction is made; all are considered upon a level in capacity, and all taxed too severely. Who ever heard of a literary institution requiring students to be engaged with seven or eight studies at one time? Such a rule would be considered barbarous, and would not be tolerated. Such an institution could not live a single year. Students would not attend, and the professors, however eminent, would have to talk to a "beggarly account of empty boxes."

The reason such a system is tolerated in medical colleges is, because the profession encourage it. No fault is to be found with the professors. They are willing to make a change as soon as supported by the profession. We cannot expect or ask them to make it without. As long as we are silent the present will be the rule. One reason why we have so many young men and old in our ranks poorly quali-

fied to practice the healing art is, because they have been educated, or rather an attempt has been made to educate them, with such unnatural rapidity. The remedy for the evil is with us; let us but administer it and the patient will recover. One thing more on this branch of my subject and I shall have done.

It has become proverbial that it is an easy task to obtain a diploma. This is so well understood that hordes of young men of but limited powers of mind enter the profession, and offer their services to the afflicted. The profession is positively crowded. Every little village and every "cross-roads" can boast of a doctor. Some are good, some indifferent, and some notoriously bad. Some have diplomas, and some have none, and the people knowing with what ease diplomas are obtained, are in doubt who is the best qualified, who to employ, the doctor with his diploma, or the doctor without.

The above is not a fancy sketch, but a reality. What is the remedy? The language of the committee on Medical Education, in their report to the American Medical Association at the meeting in Charleston in 1851, is so appropriate that I take the liberty to quote it:

"Though we have great confidence in the honor of the professors in our schools, as a body of men, it is not to be denied that in some of the schools the examinations have sometimes been a mere farce, and men have been dignified with the honorable title of M.D., who are totally unfit to practice the medical art. And this being the case with some schools in the midst of the rivalry which exists, the tendency is to induce other schools to relax their rules in some measure, and the influence of this may extend even up to those which stand upon the most firm basis, quite above the fluctuating popular influences which have been so much felt by schools that have not been long established. To guard against such abuses and such tendencies, it is the opinion of your committee that a plan which has been long in operation in Connecticut, and we believe in some other States, should be universally adopted, viz.: that the examining board should be composed in part by the professors in the school in each case, and in part of censors appointed by the Medical Society of the State in which the school is located."

Let this rule be adopted in Ohio, and let this Society see it enforced.

The professors in our schools will certainly not object. It can work no harm to them. It will break up a part of the rivalry that naturally exists between the schools. It will take away much of the responsibility resting on their shoulders, and place it upon the profession at large. It will create a common bond of interests between the schools, and the profession. It will beget union and harmony, increase the number of students, as it will increase confidence, and in more ways than these will work to the benefit of the schools and the honor and dignity of the profession in the State.

Sometime since the Society took action upon the subject of registration, and through the influence of its members an act was passed by the Legislature. It may be said with truth that this law has been nearly a dead letter upon the statute book. Certain it is, nothing beneficial has as yet been accomplished. Physicians throughout the State, including members of this Society, refused to obey the law. Some contended that the proper officers did not furnish the blanks; some that it was imperfect, and some that it was unjust. This matter was discussed at some length at the meeting of the Society in Massillon, and a committee appointed who promised us an amendment to the law. From some cause nothing has been done, and we to-day are in no better condition than when we first began to move in the premises. The advantages of such a law are so great and so well understood, that not a word is needed from me by way of argument. I only allude to it for the purpose of urging the Society to complete its work. The committee appointed at Massillon is still in existence, and I perhaps should ask pardon for the allusion I have made, as they will doubtless report progress in the matter, releasing the Society from further action.

I am not a very warm advocate for legislative enactments for the purpose of strengthening the regular profession, or of putting down error. It has been tried, and has failed. Wise legislation on such matters is construed by the ignorant into persecution, and instead of doing good, appears to do harm. There is one subject, however, which calls loudly for the strong arm of the law. Legislation is not needed for the benefit of the regular profession merely, but for the health, comfort and happiness of the people. I allude to patent med

icines or secret nostrums. There appears to be a rage for them. If we could believe the advertisements we read every day in the newspapers, we would be constrained to come to the conclusion that the concentrated essence of all healing virtues discovered from the days of Esculapius down to the present moment were embodied and done up in sugar, in some "Indian vegetable" pill. The market is flooded with them. The shelves of our drug stores groan beneath the weight of syrups, balsams, expectorants, panaceas, and other magical compounds, each bearing well-authenticated certificates of marvellous and sovereign powers. They are compounded by illiterate, ignorant mountebanks, who take this as a convenient and popular method to steal the people's money. Many of them labeled with the catch-word title "Vegetable," contain the most dangerous poisons (even arsenic), held in solution by a dishwater menstruum. Certificates without number are obtained by stealing names from the tombstones of the sleeping dead, attesting their curative properties. The same pill or syrup cures every disease; "headache and chilblains," "pain in the side and in the toe," "hysteria and apoplexy," "asthma and sore eyes," "the itch and worms." The regular profession have been toiling and investigating the laws of health and disease, "in season and out of season;" they have imperiled their lives in discoveries for the relief of afflicted mankind, and yet we are asked to believe in this, the nineteenth century, after a lapse of over five thousand years in darkness and obscurity, that these ignorant patent-medicine manufacturers have discovered the all-important fact that there is but one disease and one remedy, and that, a "vegetable" pill, a syrup, or balsam. I need not argue the evil done by these agents. Those possessing poisons do positive harm, while those having no medicinal properties, lull the patient under curative, though grave disease, into security until the golden moment is past, and that which at first was curable becomes incurable.

A law should be passed by the Legislature requiring every manufacturer and vender to write on the labels in plain English, or in technical medical language, the recipe of the compound manufactured and sold. The effect of such a law would be to take away the mystery and magic of these compounds. The worthless trash will be

made public, and condemned, while those possessing medical virtues (if there are any such) will be retained and prescribed as other medicines. An effort has been made to get such a law passed, and at one session came within one vote of becoming a law. The measure has been defeated in each instance by the persistent opposition of those engaged in the traffic. If each and every member of this Society will go to work with spirit and energy, I have no doubt such a law can be passed the coming session of the Legislature. Let us to work with a determination and we will do honor to ourselves, the State, and the profession at large. Set the example in Ohio, and I have no doubt that in a short time similar action will be taken in every State in the Union. I urge this, well knowing that the reform will result in a pecuniary loss to the regular profession, believing and knowing as I do, that these nostrums produce more diseases than they cure, but at the same time urge it, and urge it strongly, for the sake of afflicted humanity.

But I find I am carrying this address to too great a length, and have already occupied more time than I expected when I commenced. Many more subjects might be alluded to, but time positively forbids. I trust enough have been considered, though very imperfectly treated, to show that we need not sit idle for want of work, and to show that our Society should be active and vigilant. To succeed in our mission and to carry out the great object of our organization, we want, must have, zealous, active, working men. As yet we have not come up to our whole duty, not accomplished what we might have done. If you will take the trouble to examine the transactions of this Society from its organization till this time, you will not fail to observe that only about one-fourth of the committees have ever been heard from after their appointment, except to ask to be continued another year. Out of eleven special committees appointed at our meeting in Sandusky, only one has reported; the balance sleep. While such a state of things exist, we are not discharging our duty as we should. Our committees should be composed of working men, of *live men*, and each member, while he does not consider himself at liberty to decline the honor, should at the same time take upon himself the labor of an appointment. Without this we cannot and will not prosper as we

should. The aim of the retiring President at our last meeting was, to appoint active, working men on the different committees. How he succeeded you will soon see. If he did succeed, it will be a source of great gratification to him ; and if he failed, it is to be hoped the gentleman who now has the honor to preside over this Society, will be most eminently successful.

In conclusion, permit me, on resigning my position as President of this Society, to again return my sincere thanks for the honor you conferred upon me. It was an elevation desirable, but unsought and but little expected. I am and have been but an humble member of the noble band of medical men throughout the State. The duties incumbent upon me have been but feebly performed, yet notwithstanding my weakness and inability you have kindly sustained me. I shall ever hold your kindness in grateful remembrance, and it shall be to me a source of pleasure and delight to hear of the prosperity of each and every member of our beloved organization. That you may be spared many days of usefulness, that you may be blessed with a bounteous supply of the good things of life unalloyed with its ills, that your pathway may be strewn with sweet-scented flowers, and your brows encircled with wreaths of the never-dying amaranth, is the ardent wish of your grateful and sincere friend.

